



FROM THE DESK OF DR. ROSE DAVIDSON, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

National Merit Recognitions

Congratulations to seniors **Bella E.** and **Paige E.** on being named 2025 **National Merit Semifinalists**. Their scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) ranked in the **top 1%** of the students. This test, taken in October of Junior year, serves as an initial screen of program entrants of which 16,000 were selected as National Merit Finalists and National Merit Scholars by the nonprofit National Merit Scholarship corporation. Semifinalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state. Commended Scholars will be announced in the coming weeks by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Bella and Paige will go on to apply for finalist status by submitting their academic records, recommendations from the school principal, and essays. Generally, 95% of semifinalists are named as finalists.



St. Joe Faculty Members Presenting at National Conference

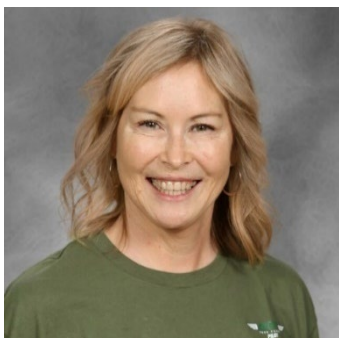
Mrs. Allison Koob and **Ms. Megan Smith**, two of our social studies teachers along with **Dr. Julia Wilkins Kohrmann**, the Director of Diversity, Culture, and Climate, will be presenting at the 2024 Society for Experiential Education Annual Conference. The conference runs from September 23-26 in New Orleans.



SOCIETY FOR
EXPERIENTIAL
EDUCATION

The St. Joe Team will be presenting a seminar entitled *Nurturing Equitable School Cultures for Experiential Development and Fair Outcomes*, which is described below. Their presentation will highlight how St. Joe fosters belonging, builds a sense of community, and provides academic support, through programs such as Freshman Experience, More Academy, Angels Take Flight, and the Magis program.

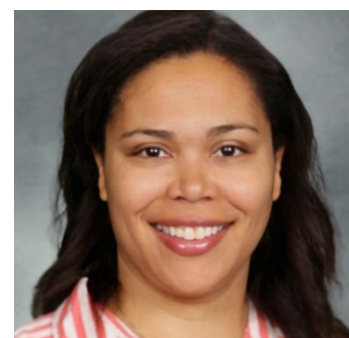
Join our seminar for practical insights on fostering equity in private schools. Discover tangible strategies to support students outside the conventional admissions profiles—whether socioeconomically, first-generation or culturally diverse. Explore a school's transformative journey, unraveling challenges and paving the way for fair and inclusive student outcomes. Gain actionable tools to create a more equitable educational environment through experiences that promote success and belonging for every student. Don't miss this opportunity to shape a future of equal opportunities in education.



Mrs. Allison Koob



Ms. Megan Smith



Dr. Julia Wilkins Kohrmann

Interdisciplinary Experience in American Studies

American Studies, which combines English and Social Studies, is a new course at St. Joe this year. Their latest unit added Fine Arts to the coursework.

On Friday, September 13, students spent the afternoon at the St. Louis Art Museum, touring the exhibition of [Juane Quick-to-See Smith's](#) work. As one of the most celebrated contemporary artists of Indigenous heritage, this exhibition spans Smith's career and draws attention to her work in St. Louis. The class also examined [The Federal Art Project](#), an exhibition that focuses on how art works to bridge communities near and far.



During their time at the Art Museum, students explored and critically analyzed the cultural, historical, and artistic contributions of Native American artists such as Juane Quick-to-See Smith and Federal Art Project artists from the Great Depression, which they have been studying in class.



By engaging with the exhibits at the St. Louis Art Museum, students deepened their understanding of American identity, the impact of historical contexts on artistic expression, and the diverse narratives that have shaped the nation's history. This field trip was designed to enhance student's ability to connect art with broader social and historical themes, fostering an appreciation for the role of art in reflecting and challenging societal values.

While at the museum, SJA visual arts teacher **Ms. Mary Nasser** served as an expert art guide

to further enhance their study of Native American Indigenous Peoples. The students in the class wrote reflections while viewing the artwork.

On September 17, the students worked with Ms. Nasser on a creative project to voice their museum experience and their connections to their classroom learning.

Thanks to **Mrs. Kelly Berry** (English), **Mrs. Allison Koob** (Social Studies), and **Ms. Mary Nasser** (Visual Arts) for providing this enriching experience for the American Studies students.



2024-2025

Student Opportunities

Notices about academic opportunities for students outside of school will be provided as they become known. This is the [link](#) to the student opportunities listing, which will be provided in each issue of the Academic Accolades. Opportunities are listed by their application deadline.

Beginning this year, a [link](#) has been added to the top of the listing connecting to a listing of college-admission-specific opportunities.

Below are two opportunities on the running list of current student opportunities.

Perry Virtual Experience

High school students interested in science, medicine, and/or engineering are invited to register for a session of the [Perry Virtual Experience](#). This is a free 2.5-hour, interactive, online experience for high school and college-aged students interested in pursuing careers in orthopedic surgery and engineering. Participants will hear from women leaders in these fields and dive into online orthopedic simulations and biomechanics experiments. Additional information can be found on their [website](#).

Upcoming program dates are:

Wednesday, September 25th @ 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 15th @ 5:00 p.m.

Details for each session can be found [here](#).



 THE PERRY INITIATIVE

Congressional App Challenge



Members of the U.S. House of Representatives challenge students in their districts to create and submit their original apps for a chance to win the [Congressional App Challenge](#) (CAC). Each challenge is district-specific.

To be eligible to participate in the Congressional App Challenge:

- Students may compete in the district they live in or the district they attend school in.
- You must be a middle or high school student at the time of app submission.
- Students may register as individuals or as teams of up to four. No more than four students are allowed to form a team. If competing as a team, at least half of the teammates must be eligible to compete in the district in which they are taking part.
- Students can use any programming language (for example C, C++, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, “block code,”) and any platform (PC, web, tablet, robot, mobile, etc.). There are no limits on application themes or topics!

The final deadline for the App is October 24.

To find out more, click [here](#).

